

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 KUALA 02184 221150Z
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-10 MMO-01 PER-01 /028 W
-----082533 221206Z /11
R 160810Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2950

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 2184

STADIS////////////////////////////////

FOR DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY READ FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: OGEN, AFSP
SUBJECT: FY 1980 GOALS/OBJECTIVES AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

REF: STATE 63477

1. I AM DISMAYED BY REFTEL, WHICH TO ME REPRESENTS BUREAU-
CRACY RUN AMOK (A GOOD MALAY WORD). EVEN IF MY STAFF AND I
COULD FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS COMPLEXITIES AND CONVOLUTIONS, WE
WOULD PROBABLY NEED ADDITIONAL STAFF TO WORK OUT OUR RESPONSE.

2. THIS IS A CLASS III POST, AND ALREADY IT ENJOYS VERY LITTLE
FLEXIBILITY IN PERSONNEL LEVELS OR BUDGET. ZBB EXERCISE SUCH
AS THAT SET FORTH IN REFTEL WOULD REPRESENT A GREAT SPINNING
OF BUREAUCRATIC WHEELS BOTH HERE AND IN WASHINGTON TO LITTLE
EFFECTIVE PURPOSE, AS FAR AS THIS EMBASSY IS CONCERNED.

3. IN THE NINE MONTHS I HAVE BEEN HERE, WE HAVE BEEN ADJUST-
ING OUR REPORTING AS ALREADY REDUCED STAFFING HAS NECESSITATED.
THESE ADJUSTMENTS HAVE ALSO BEEN IN RESPONSE TO CRITICISM IN
THE LAST INSPECTION REPORT AND BY M/MO THAT KUALA LUMPUR
IN THE PAST HAS REPORTED TOO VOLUMINOUSLY. AT THE SAME
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 KUALA 02184 221150Z

TIME, IN RECENT MONTHS WE HAVE RECEIVED HIGH-LEVEL INSTRUCTIONS
TO BEEF UP OUR EXPORT PROMOTION ACTIVITIES, OUR CONSULAR
SERVICES TO AMERICAN CITIZENS, OUR HANDLING OF INDOCHINA
REFUGEES, OUR COOPERATION ON NARCOTICS, AND OUR HUMAN RIGHTS
ACTIVITIES. WE WELCOME THESE INSTRUCTIONS AND ARE IM-
PLEMENTING THEM, WE HOPE, TO THE DEPARTMENT'S SATISFACTION.
BUT A POST THE SIZE OF THIS ONE DOES NOT NEED TO GO THROUGH

A LABORIOUS ZBB EXERCISE SIMPLY TO DETERMINE THAT OUR STAFF IS ALREADY PRETTY SLIM AND TRIM TO HANDLE THE WORKLOAD THRUST UPON IT.

4. WHAT TROUBLES ME MOST ABOUT REFTEL IS THAT IT COMES ON TOP OF THREE PREVIOUS REQUESTS IN MY SHORT TENURE HERE FROM THE DEPUTY SECRETARY AND YOU TO CHIEFS OF MISSION, ASKING FOR OUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PERSONNEL CUTS FOR FY 1978 IN ALL AGENCIES REPRESENTED HERE (77 STATE 154335, 2 1122, AND 277164). IN MY RESPONSES TO THESE MESSAGES (77 KUALA LUMPUR 4340, 6320, AND 8928), I MADE CLEAR MY STRONG VIEW THAT STATE ELEMENTS OF THIS EMBASSY HAD ABSORBED ALL THE CUTS IN RECENT YEARS AND THAT, IF THE EMBASSY'S ESSENTIAL CHARACTER AS A DIPLOMATIC MISSION IS TO BE PRESERVED, CUTS SHOULD BE MADE IN OTHER AGENCY ELEMENTS HERE BEFORE ANY FURTHER STATE CUTS ARE CONTEMPLATED.

5. I CONTINUE TO HOLD FIRM TO THIS VIEW. BUT DESPITE MY BEST EFFORTS TO FIND OUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO MY RECOMMENDATIONS, I HAVE BEEN SINGULARLY UNSUCCESSFUL IN DOING SO. I REALLY BELIEVE THAT IF I AM REQUIRED TO PUT MY STAFF THROUGH AN EXERCISE LIKE THAT REQUESTED REFTEL AND MAKE FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS TO YOU, I SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO OPERATE IN A VACUUM. I MUST KNOW WHETHER MY EARLIER RECOMMENDATIONS ARE BEING ACTED UPON OR NOT. IT IS NEITHER IN THE DEPARTMENT'S INTERESTS, NOR IN THE PRESIDENT'S, TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 KUALA 02184 221150Z

CONTINUE TO CUT THE ALREADY SMALL TRADITIONAL DIPLOMATIC ELEMENTS OF THIS MISSION WITHOUT KEEPING OTHER AGENCIES IN LINE PROPORTIONALLY. IF WE DO NOT DO THIS, WE WILL EVENTUALLY FIND THAT THE ONLY EFFECTIVE STATE ELEMENT IS THE ADMIN SECTION, WHICH CANNOT BE CUT BECAUSE IT HAS TO SUPPORT THE OTHER AGENCY ELEMENTS OF THE MISSION.

6. I SHOULD ALSO ADD THAT, WHILE I DO NOT RULE OUT FURTHER CUTS IN THE FUTURE AT THIS POST, INCLUDING IN STATE ELEMENTS, I THINK WE ARE CLOSE TO THE POINT WHERE FURTHER REDUCTIONS IN PERSONNEL IN ANY AGENCY ELEMENTS HERE WOULD REQUIRE ABOLITION OF SIGNIFICANT FUNCTIONS. AND IN MY EXPERIENCE, THE ISSUE OF ABOLITION OF FUNCTIONS, PARTICULARLY IN OTHER AGENCY ELEMENTS, REQUIRES WASHINGTON DECISIONS. IN MY EARLIER CABLES, CITED ABOVE, I HAVE MADE SUGGESTIONS IN THIS REGARD. WE FRANKLY DO NOT NEED ANOTHER MASSIVE PAPER EXERCISE TO DEAL AGAIN WITH THESE ISSUES.

7. I'M SORRY TO VENT MY SPLEEN LIKE THIS, BUT I LOOK FOR SOME SERIOUS GUIDANCE WHICH DEALS WITH OUR PREVIOUS CAREFULLY THOUGHT-OUT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 1978 BEFORE LAUNCHING ON ANOTHER SIMILAR EXERCISE FOR 1980.

I SEEK YOUR HELP.

MILLER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KUALA02184
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780126-0111
Format: TEL
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780361/aaaabzle.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 63204bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 78 STATE 63477
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3311876
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FY 1980 GOALS/OBJECTIVES AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
TAGS: OGEN, AFSP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/63204bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014